Under Review:

(i) Recruitment Rules for Highly Skilled Grade in various industrial categories.

(ii) Recruitment Rules of Chief Draughtsman and Technical Officer to account for merger of these two categories.

(iii) Recruitment Rules for Assistant Engineer (Civil), Assistant Engineer (Electrical & Mechanical) and Assistant Engineer (Quantity Surveying & Contract).

(iv) Recruitment Rules for Administrative Cadre subject to merger of Administrative Officer-I and Administrative Officer-ll.

(v) Recruitment Rules for Group "C Industrial (39 categories) and Military Truck drivers.

Decline in Sikh personnel Joining the Armed Forces

1547. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there has been a steep decline of personnel belonging to Sikh community in all the three wings of armed forces;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Every citizen of the country irrespective of their caste, religion and domicile is eligible for recruitment in the armed forces provided he meets the laid down physical, educational, medical and other criteria where specified.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Joint defence exercises

1548. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning any more two-nation joint defence